

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A self-ballasted fluorescent lamp comprising:

an arc tube formed by parallelly arranging a plurality of U-shaped bent bulbs having an outer tube diameter ranging from about 8mm to about 11 mm in such a manner that the maximum width of the bulbs ranges from about 32mm to about 42mm, each of which has a bent portion and straight portions;

a cover including a base that is adapted to permit said arc tube to be attached thereto;

a lighting circuit which includes a circuit board having the maximum width ranging up to 1.2 times the maximum width of the arc tube, said maximum width of the arc tube being the dimension along which the U-shaped bent bulbs are arranged, and

said lighting circuit contained in the cover in such a manner that the circuit board is positioned with one of its sides facing all the ends of the straight portions of the arc tube and provided with components having relatively high heat resistance mounted on the side of the circuit board facing the arc tube and components having relative low heat resistance mounted on the opposite side of the circuit board.

12. (Original) A self-ballasted fluorescent lamp as claimed in claim 11, wherein said components having relatively high heat resistance of the fluorescent lamp are chip-shaped rectifying devices.

13-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A self-ballasted fluorescent lamp, as in claim 11, wherein:

the U-shaped bent bulbs of the arc tube are arranged in such a manner that the cross sections of the U-shaped bent bulbs give the appearance of a triangle;

a distance w_1 between the two straight portions of each U-shaped bent bulb is so set as to be nearly identical to a distance w_2 between each straight portion of each U-shaped bent bulb that is adjacent to said straight portion;

said distances w_1 , w_2 are respectively limited in the range from about 1mm to about 5mm;

said lighting circuit includes a half-bridge type inverter main circuit having at least a pair of transistors consisting of an N-channel transistor and a P-channel transistor, which are connected in series with each other to an input power supply and serve as the main switching element for generating a high frequency voltage;

said lighting circuit further including a ballast choke connected to the main inverter main circuit so as to light the arc tube in stable conditions; and

said lighting circuit further including a control means which has a secondary winding magnetically connected to the ballast choke and shared by the N-channel transistor and the P-channel transistor so that the control means serves to control the transistors by means of the secondary winding.

27. (Previously Presented) A luminaire including a self-ballasted fluorescent lamp as claimed in claim 11.